

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Meeting of Friday, October 2, 2009
Bangs Community Center, room 101

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Mary Streeter, Carol Gray (arrived 4:54, departed 5:50), Rob Crowner; absent: Harry Brooks, Dorwenda Bynum-Lewis

1. Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:37pm.
2. Minutes of previous meeting: Mary moves, Nonny seconds to accept the minutes of 9/25/09 with amendments and the committee approves by a vote of 4-0.

3. Ad hoc budget motion committee: Peggy reports that the Finance Committee has designated Kay Moran and Marylou Theilman as its representatives to the ad hoc budget motion committee. The Finance Committee wants this committee's work to include budget education issues and to be completed by the end of December. TMCC members discuss broad goals and strategies for the committee.

TMCC representatives Mary and Nonny will attempt to convene an initial meeting, though it may be difficult to coordinate availability for members of three busy groups.

4. Warrant review: Peggy reports that a group consisting of Barbara Francis and Martha Hanner of the League of Women Voters and Rob and herself of TMCC will meet on Monday, October 5 to make arrangements for the warrant review event. Peggy has already been in contact with Planning Board chair Jonathan Shefftz, who intends to present the zoning articles -- though there may be a need for an additional Planning Board meeting on the night of the warrant review, October 14.

Peggy states that Harry Brooks recently conveyed an offer from ACTV to hold the warrant review at the ACTV studio, likely due to concerns about having to edit in visual aids after the fact for rebroadcast. However, the consensus of the committee is that it is too late to change plans at this time.

5. Informational forum: Carol reports that she has gotten commitments from the director of Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance and a representative from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and a tentative commitment from a member of the Northampton Planning Department. Together, they would bring perspectives from policy, coalition-building, planning, and conservation aspects of smart growth development. Carol hopes to locate someone to discuss the history of Amherst's phased growth bylaw and is thinking about inviting an architect specializing in smart growth design or someone to talk about sustainability issues.

The deadline for submitting materials for the second town meeting packet is Monday, October 19. The forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27.

6. Bus tour: Peggy states that Harry has a bus lined up, though the warrant itself is still in flux so an itinerary is not yet set. Carol and Harry will be finalizing those details soon.

In discussion, the committee concludes that it has not been included to the meetings at which the warrant is planned, as it had been promised. Peggy believes she received a schedule at some point, but not a specific invitation to attend any meetings. At this point, with the warrant to be signed in a few days, there may not be a reason to insist on inclusion in subsequent meetings, should there be any. However, Mary states that it would be useful to establish the committee as a "face in

the room", and the consensus of the committee is that a representative of TMCC should be included if other meetings are held.

7. Packets: Carol promises to prepare a final draft of a flyer for the forum before the deadline for the second packet on October 19. Mary requests that members advise her about updating the childcare and library archive sections of previous years' flyers.

The committee discusses several inaccuracies in the most recent edition of "They Represent You", including the omission of the notation of TMCC representatives, apparently because the TMCC election was so late this year. Carol requests that whoever is currently a member of TMCC at the time of any printing be noted, even if he or she is expected to be replaced by the end of that year's meeting. Mary states that only the <townmeeting@amherstma.gov> email address was included, not also the <tmcc@amherstma.gov> address as in previous editions.

8. Publicity: Mary states that a story responding to the committee's press release has already been posted on the website of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, but she is not sure if it has been published in the print version. Mary reports that she has posted the flyers for upcoming events on the town website and will send a reminder to Harry to add them to the scroll on ACTV.

9. Pictures of old Town Meetings: Mary passes around copies of pictures she found in Special Collections at the Jones Library. Kris Pacunas has promised to photograph the former meeting room at Town Hall.

10. The meeting is adjourned at 6:02pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner
Approved October 9, 2009

Documents distributed at the meeting:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of September 25, 2009